



PATENT APPLICATION

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hideki MATSUNAGA

Group Art Unit: 2172

Application No.: 09/923,440

Examiner: A. Ly

Filed: August 8, 2001

Docket No.: 110331

For: OBJECT MANAGEMENT METHOD AND SYSTEM

APPLICANT'S SEPARATE RECORD OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative during the April 6, 2006 personal interview. The following is Applicant's separate record of the personal interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,839,843 to Bacha et al. (Hereinafter "Bacha") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,926,824 to Hashimoto.

During the personal interview, Applicant's Representative traversed the rejection on the grounds that Bacha and Hashimoto fail to disclose, teach, or suggest, that the retrieval condition is defined based on a least one attribute of the object, as recited in claim 1 and 10. In particular, Applicant's Representative explained that Bacha discloses the type of access control discussed in Applicant's "Background of the Invention." That is, Bacha discloses, for each document, an Access Control List (ACL), including a list of users who have access to that document. As a result, when a user's access level changes, a plurality of ACLs must be

updated to reflect the new user's access to the corresponding documents. Accordingly, Bacha fails to disclose setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition, the retrieval condition being defined based on at least one attribute of the object.

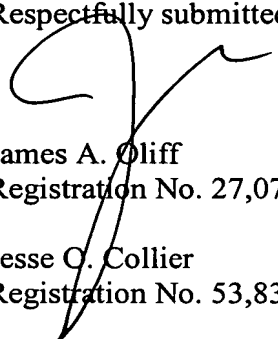
Applicant's Representative then explained that Hashimoto fails to make up for the deficiency of Bacha. Hashimoto only discloses locating documents based on a retrieval condition (1203) such as document name, document creation date, document creator, document keyword, and the like (C8/L1-13). However, such a disclosure would not lead a skilled artisan to set an access right in association with the retrieval condition.

Examiner Ly did not argue with the Applicant's characterization of the references. Rather, Examiner Ly simply alleged that the claims, by themselves, were unclear. In particular, Examiner Ly requested that we further clarify the claimed "retrieval condition" and the claimed "identifier." In response, Applicant's Representative explained that both terms were clearly defined and discussed in Applicant's specification.

Applicant's Representative then explained that Applicant had no obligation to clarify the terms in the claims because the claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the specification. See *In Re Hyatt*, 211 F.3d 1367, 1372 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification); see also MPEP §§ 2173.01 and 2173.02, which require that the clarity of a claim term be determined in view of Applicant's disclosure. Examiner Ly did not deny that the "retrieval condition" and the claimed "identifier" were adequately disclosed and defined in the specification, but simply maintained his position that the claims should be narrowed.

At the end of the interview, Examiner Ly stated that the claims appeared to be allowable if claims 2 and 3 were incorporated into claims 1 and 10.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JOC/tea

Date: April 25, 2006

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